to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. According to information sent by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, a total compensation of approximately Rs. 996 crore has been disbursed upto 31.12.1998 after adjudicating 7,30,901 claims. In addition, a total outlay of Rs. 258 crores was approved for various rehabilitation schemes under the Action Plan prepared for Bhopal Gas Victims. This expenditure is to be shared between Central Govearnment and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that a sum of Rs. 202.18 crore has been spent as on 31.12.98 on these schemes. Out of this amount, Central Government has released approximately Rs. 166 crore.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Flouting of Pollution Norms by Mine Owners

1104. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mine owners are flouting the pollution norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests causing lot of pollution; and

(b) what is the number of mine owners who have been penalized during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The mine owners are required to obtain environmental clearances from the Government before starting any mining project. Environmental clearances are issued by the Government specifying certain conditions/standards to safeguard the environment from mining activities.

The approved projects are monitored for compliance of specified conditions/standards through six Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. In case of non-compliance/unsatisfactory compliance of stipulated conditions/standards, Government takes appropriate action against project proponents. Out of 294 mining projects approved by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, unsatisfactory compliance was reported in 33 projects as on 30.6.1998 and project proponents have been asked to take suitable mitigative measures for compliance of stipulated conditions. So far, no project proponent has been penalized.

Creation of Bio-Diversity Zone in AP

1105. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create Bio-Diversity Zone in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have surveyed potential sites along the Godavari and Krishna Valley in the State;

(c) if so, when were these surveys conducted; and

(d) what steps are proposed to actively develop Bio-Diversity Zone in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have been undertaking floristic and faunistic surveys in Andhra Pradesh along with some universities. The ZSI has undertaken 28 surveys covering 15 districts during 1995-99. The BSI has undertaken surveys in 12 districts during the last three decades. The reports of these surveys have been published in the form of district Floras/Faunas and research papers.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration to develop biodiversity zone in Andhra Pradesh.

Promotion of CNG run vehicles

1106. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a policy, Government have considered the question of promoting Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) run vehicles to replace the polluting diesel run vehicles.

(b) if so, the details of the decision, if any, taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Government, in order to promote the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as fuel in vehicles, has initiated following steps; (a) providing customs duty exemption for CNG kits; (b) allotment of land for setting up of CNG filling stations; (c) conversion of DTC and private city buses to single fuel mode on CNG by 31.3.2001 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; (d) all pre-1990 autos and taxis to be replaced with new vehicles on clean fuels by 31.3.2000 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; (e) all post-1990 autos and taxis to be replaced with new vehicles on clean fuels by 31.3.2001 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; (f) No 8 year old buses to ply except on CNG or other clean fuels by 1.4.2000 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

यमुना नदी का एक नहर में परिवर्तन

1107. श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण ने यमुना नदी की चौड़ाई कम करके इसे एक नहर का रूप देने के लिए कोई योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है;

और

(ग) क्या इसके पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव का आकलन किया गया है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) से (ग) जी, हां। मास्टर प्लान दिल्ली-2001 में यमुना नदी को चैनलबद्ध करने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। केन्द्रीय जल और ऊर्जा अनुसंधान केन्द्र, पुणे ने मास्टर प्लान दिल्ली-2001 में अनुमोदित प्रस्ताव के संबंध में अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के तौर पर यमुना नदी को चैनलबद्ध करने के लिए एक अध्ययन किया है और उसने यह सिफारिश की है कि केन्द्रशासित प्रदेश, दिल्ली में यमुना नदी को चैनलबद्ध करना व्यावहारिक है लेकिन इससे यमुना नदी के जल प्रवाह की गति पर कुछ प्रभाव पड़ने के साथ ही केन्द्रशासित प्रदेश दिल्ली के जल के ऊपरी स्तर में भी वृद्धि होगी। राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण इंजीनियरिंग अनुसंधान संस्थान, नागपुर को दिल्ली में यमुना नदी के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्यांकन, पर्यावरणीय प्रबंधन और नवीकरण के लिए एक अध्ययन करने का कार्य सौंपा गया है। पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्यांकन का कार्य पूरा हुए बिना दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) द्वारा कोई भी विचार परियोजना शुरू नहीं की जाएगी।

Protection of Gulf of Mannar from environmental degradation

1108. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are blocking a big grant from the Global Environment Facility for a project to save the Gulf of Mannar from environmental degradation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and